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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0514

October 8, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:


We write you to request that the United States, as one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, nominate and support a woman candidate to be the next Secretary-General before Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's term ends on December 31, 2016.

This year the United Nations celebrates its 70th birthday. By design, its mission is to represent humanity as a whole and, as its charter requires, "to reaffirm faith in ... the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small." It is long past time that we help ensure this organization lives up to this promise and nominate a leader who represents half the world's population—a half that often goes unheard on the international stage.

Your administration has made extensive, invaluable efforts to promote women in positions of power. Aside from President Clinton's second term, it has had the highest percentage of women in cabinet level positions in American history. And as you know, this effort can't end at our shores. You've nominated two powerful women as Ambassador to the United Nations—Samantha Power and Susan Rice. They face overwhelming male majorities in their chambers. Out of the current 193 member nations represented in the General Assembly, only 40 have female delegates.

We must continue to use our global authority to encourage the election of women leaders in the United Nations and worldwide. As such, we ask that you nominate and support a woman candidate to be the next United Nations Secretary-General. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jackie Speier



Cynthia M. Lummis



Corrine Brown



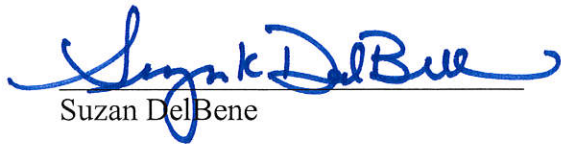
Judy Chu



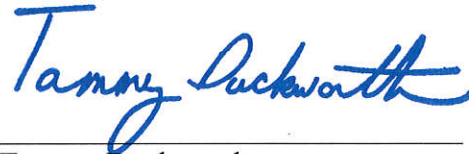
Susan Davis



Rosa DeLauro



Suzan DelBene



Tammy Duckworth



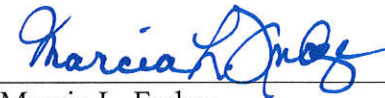
Donna F. Edwards



Anna G. Eshoo



Elizabeth Esty



Marcia L. Fudge



Raúl M. Grijalva



Janice Hahn




Michael M. Honda



Marcy Kaptur


Ann McLane Kuster


Barbara Lee


Zoe Lofgren


Alan Lowenthal


Carolyn B. Maloney


Doris Matsui

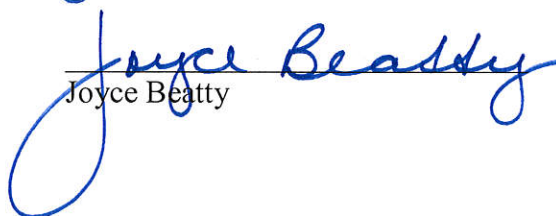

Gwen Moore


Grace F. Napolitano


Chellie Pingree


Jan Schakowsky


Eric Swalwell


Joyce Beatty